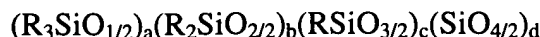


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom;
and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d = 1.0$, and where
the resin has at least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are of the formula

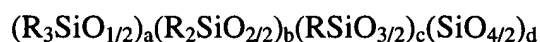
$R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group.

2. (Previously Presented) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein each R' is a vinyl group.
3. (Previously Presented) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein at least 10 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are $Vi_3SiO_{1/2}$ groups, where Vi represents vinyl.
4. (Currently Amended) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein at least 80 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are selected from $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, $RSiO_3$, $RSiO_{3/2}$ and $SiO_{4/2}$ units.
5. (Previously Presented) A curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein at least 20 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are $ArSiO_{3/2}$ units where Ar represents an aryl group.

6. (Previously Presented) A self-curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein 10-50 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are $\text{HSiO}_{3/2}$ units.

7. (Previously Presented) A self-curable silicone resin according to Claim 1, wherein 10-50 mole% of the siloxane units of the resin are $\text{HR}_2\text{SiO}_{1/2}$, $\text{H}_2\text{RSiO}_{1/2}$ or $\text{HRSiO}_{2/2}$ units.

8. (Currently Amended) A curable resin composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom; and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d = 1.0$, where at least 2 mole% of the siloxane units in the resin are siloxane units of the formula

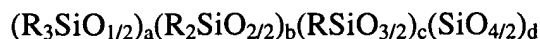
$\text{R}'_3\text{SiO}_{1/2}$, $\text{RR}'_2\text{SiO}_{1/2}$ or $\text{R}'_2\text{SiO}_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least one group reactive with the alkenyl group R'.

9. (Previously Presented) A curable resin composition according to Claim 8 wherein the curing agent contains at least one Si-H group and the composition includes a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

10. (Previously Presented) A curable resin composition according to Claim 9 wherein the curing agent is a polysiloxane containing at least two Si-H groups or an aryl compound of the formula $\text{HX}_2\text{Si-Ar-SiX}_2\text{H}$, in which Ar is a substantially nonflexible linkage including at least one para-arylene moiety and each X is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom.

11. (Previously Presented) A curable resin composition comprising a self-curable resin according to Claim 6 and a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

12. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a cured heat resistant silicone resin having a low coefficient of thermal expansion, comprising the step of reacting a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



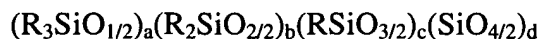
wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom; and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d = 1.0$, where at least 2 mole% of the ~~siloxane units in the resin~~ are siloxane units of the formula

$R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, ~~$RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$~~ or $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, with a curing agent having at least one functional group reactive with the alkenyl group R'.

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the curing agent contains at least one Si-H group and the curing process is carried out in the presence of a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

14. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a cured heat resistant silicone resin ~~having a low coefficient of thermal expansion~~, comprising the step of heating a self-curable silicone resin according to Claim 6 in the presence of a catalyst containing a platinum group metal.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for encapsulating a substrate comprising the steps of coating the substrate with a curable silicone resin composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula

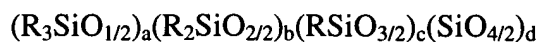


wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom; and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d = 1.0$, where at least 2 mole% of the ~~siloxane units in the resin~~ are siloxane units of the formula

$R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, ~~$RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$~~ or $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group,

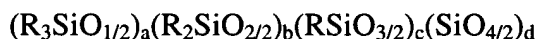
and (II) a curing agent having at least one group reactive with the alkenyl group R', and then reacting (I) and (II).:

16. (Currently Amended) A process for coating a substrate comprising the steps of applying a curable silicone composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom; and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d=1.0$, where at least 2 mole% of the ~~siloxane units in the resin~~ are siloxane units of the formula $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, ~~$RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or~~ $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least one group reactive with the alkenyl group R' as a thin film to a substrate and then reacting (I) and (II).

17. (Currently amended) A process for making a composite material, comprising the step of impregnating at least one layer of fibrous material with a curable silicone composition comprising (I) a curable silicone resin having the empirical formula



wherein each R is a hydrocarbon or substituted hydrocarbon group or a hydrogen atom; and $a = 0.02$ to 0.8 ; $b = 0$ to 0.4 ; and $c+d = 0.2$ to 0.98 , where $a+b+c+d=1.0$, where at least 2 mole% of the ~~siloxane units in the resin~~ are siloxane units of the formula $R'_3SiO_{1/2}$, ~~$RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or~~ $RR'_2SiO_{1/2}$ or $R'_2SiO_{2/2}$, wherein each R' is an alkenyl group, and (II) a curing agent having at least one group reactive with the alkenyl group R' and then reacting (I) and (II).

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the first step of reacting a curable silicone resin with a curing agent is at a temperature in the range 50 to 300°C and further comprising a subsequent heat cure step at a temperature in the range 300 to 500°C

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 18, wherein the further heating step at 300-500°C is carried out in the presence of an amine which is in the vapour state at the temperature of the further heating step.
20. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 19, wherein the amine is a tertiary amine of the formula NZ_3 , where each Z represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
21. (Previously Presented) A cured heat resistant silicone resin composition prepared by the process of Claim 12.
22. (Previously Presented) A cured heat resistant silicone resin composition prepared by the process of Claim 18.